

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended. Claims 7-14 have been presented herewith.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Claim for Priority under 35 U.S.C. 119, and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Norton et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,510,411). This rejection, insofar as it may pertain to the presently pending claims, is traversed for the following reasons.

The interactive speech interface unit of claim 1 includes in combination a speech recognizer; an input statement analyzer; an interactive controller "that controls flow of an interactive status and accessing an application, the interactive controller putting series of interactive sequences having calling relations together in a plurality of interactive tasks having an upper interactive task and a lower interactive task in a hierarchical structure, the interactive controller modifying one of the interactive sequences in an upper interactive task in accordance with a lower interactive task"; an output statement generator; a speech generator; an application interface; and an interactive task hierarchical database "that stores the interactive tasks including the

modified interactive sequence in a hierarchical structure". Applicant respectfully submits that the Norton et al. reference as relied upon does not disclose these features.

As emphasized above, the interactive speech interface unit of claim 1 includes in combination an interactive controller that modifies one of the interactive sequences in an upper interactive task in accordance with a lower interactive task. Although not necessarily limited thereto and provided merely for explanatory purposes, these features may be interpreted as described on page 6, lines 24-36 of the present application with reference to Fig. 7. The upper interactive task may be interpreted as including interactive sequences PROC_001, PROC_101 and PROC_102. The lower interactive sequence may be interpreted as including interactive sequences PROC_201 and PROC_202. The interactive controller decides that one of the interactive sequences (interactive sequence PROC_101) should be modified to the interactive sequence PROC_103 in accordance with the lower interactive sequence (interactive sequences PROC_201 and PROC_202) as shown in the lower left side box of Fig. 7. Then a database subsequently stores an interactive task including modified interactive sequence PROC_103 as shown in the right side box of Fig. 7.

In contrast, in the conventional system shown in the Norton et al. reference, the upper and lower interactive tasks are simply combined without any modification. For example, see Fig. 3A of the Norton et al. reference (simple combination of interactive tasks of "order", "drink" and "size").

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the interactive speech interface

unit of claim 1 distinguishes over the Norton et al. reference as relied upon by the Examiner, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 1-6, is improper for at least these reasons.

Claims 7-14

The interactive speech interface system of claim 7 includes in combination an interactive controller "coupled to the analysis part, the interactive task hierarchical database and the interactive sequence memory, the interactive controller providing an interactive task in response to the semantic representation, modifying the interactive sequence in the upper interactive task of the interactive task in response to the lower interactive task of the interactive task, and providing the lower interactive task with the modified interactive sequence...". As emphasized previously, the Norton et al. reference as relied upon by the Examiner does not disclose modifying an interactive sequence in an upper interactive task responsive to a lower interactive task. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the interactive speech interface system of claims 7-14 distinguish over and would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejection, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for

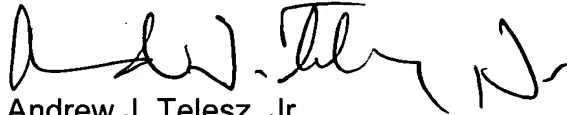
at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (703) 715-0870 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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